

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 39-49, and 58-70 are presented for examination. Claims 7 and 12 have been amended, and claims 50-57 have been cancelled (without prejudice), in accordance with the agreement reached with the Examiner at the interview of October 28, 2004. Claims 1, 7, 12 and 17 are in independent form. Claims 59-70 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection (support for which can be found, for example, in Fig. 4 and page 22, lines 11-16 and page 23, lines 16 et seq.). Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview of October 28, 2004

Claims 1, 7, 12, and 17 were discussed in relation to U.S. Patent 6,460,036 (Herz) and the anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Herz. Applicant argued that, contrary to the anticipation rejection, Herz failed to teach or suggest one or more of the features of these claims, including but not limited to (1) storing cumulative feedback data gathered from multiple users during previous operations of the apparatus and segregated in accordance with the plurality of task/domains, (2) determining a current task/domain with which a current user command inputted by a user is associated, (3) determining a current response to the current user command based on a portion of the stored cumulative feedback data gathered from the multiple users that is associated with the current task/domain, and (4) adding the current feedback data to the portion of the stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain. The Examiner

indicated, pending a supplemental search, that Claims 1 and 17 would allowable over Herz, and that Claims 7 and 12, as amended above, would also be allowable over Herz.

To expedite allowance of this case, Applicant has amended independent Claims 7 and 12 as requested by the Examiner during the interview. However, Applicant maintains that independent Claims 7 and 12 (as they existed prior to the above amendment) are patentable over the Herz patent for the reasons submitted previously, and thus reserves his right to pursue those claims (and cancelled claims 50-57) in one or more continuation applications.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

In addition, corrected formal drawings were submitted on March 13, 2003, in response to the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review attached to the Office Action dated December 13, 2002. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an indication that the corrected formal drawings have been accepted.

Further, Information Disclosure Statements were submitted on September 10, 2003, and February 23, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to return an initialed copy of each of the corresponding PTO-1449 forms, indicating that the references listed thereon have been considered and made of record in the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Sharrott', written over a horizontal line.

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